



News for Immediate Release
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Jones Tract Pumping Project Extended

SACRAMENTO – Department of Water Resources (DWR) officials report that the Jones Tract floodwater pumpout project has been expanded and the completion date extended. DWR Engineers say contractors are now looking to finish the dewatering job sometime in November instead of the previous mid-October estimate.

The completion date has been delayed partly because the pumps have been losing efficiency as the floodwater level has been drawn down. Another factor is that the Department has agreed to pump a greater portion of the residual ponding than contemplated in the original plan. While there has been some leakage at the Upper Jones Tract levee breach closure, it is an insignificant amount in comparison to the pumpout flows.

“Actually, the pumpout work has proceeded very well to date,” says Les Harder, Jr., Chief of DWR’s Division of Engineering. “In many areas, the water has receded from the levee interiors and the landowners are already at work trying to reclaim damaged properties.”

The 19-square mile tract 10 miles west of Stockton was inundated June 3 when part of the levee protecting Upper Jones Tract unexpectedly gave way. When pumpout operations began July 12, approximately 140,000 acre feet of water covered the 12,000 acre island to an average depth of about 12 feet.

The lake level has been reduced by nearly 10 and a half feet. That translates to around 125,000 acre feet of water. Approximately 2,400 acres of farmland have been reclaimed, so far, and that figure is rapidly increasing.

The cause of the levee failure will likely remain unknown. Overall costs relating to the disaster are placed at \$90 million.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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